What is claimed is:

1. A food chopper comprising:

a housing for receiving a food item,

a blade assembly including a blade and moveable within the housing for chopping the food item,

a shaft attached to the blade assembly for movement therewith,

a plunger assembly coupled to the shaft for effecting reciprocating and rotational movement thereof, and

a shock absorber disposed between the plunger assembly and the shaft.

2. The chopper of claim 1, wherein the shock absorber comprises an elastomeric body.

3. The chopper of claim 1, wherein the shaft has an axial bore formed in an end thereof, the plunger having a post coaxially received in the bore, the shock absorber being disposed between the post and an inner end of the bore.

4. The chopper of claim 3, wherein the post has a recess in an inner end thereof, the shock absorber having a portion receivable in the recess.

5. The chopper of claim 1, and further comprising structure for latching the plunger assembly to the shaft.

6. The chopper of claim 5, wherein the structure includes snap-fittable interlocking flanges respectively formed on the plunger assembly and the shaft.

7. The chopper of claim 1, wherein there is a threaded connection between the shaft and the blade assembly.

8. A food chopper comprising:

a housing for receiving a food item,

a blade assembly including a blade and moveable within the housing for chopping the food item,

a shaft threadedly connected to the blade assembly for movement therewith, and

a plunger assembly coupled to the shaft for effecting reciprocating and rotational movement thereof.

9. The chopper of claim 10, wherein the blade assembly includes a cylindrical neck which is threadedly connected to the shaft.

10. The chopper of claim 9, wherein the neck is a hollow tubular construction which is internally threaded for threadedly receiving the shaft therein.

11. The chopper of claim 10, and further comprising detent structure on the shaft and the blade assembly for indicating when the shaft has been threadedly engaged with the blade assembly in a mounted condition.

12. The chopper of claim 11, wherein the detent structure includes a bifurcated end on the shaft, and detent recesses on the blade assembly for receiving the bifurcated end.

13. A food chopper comprising:

a housing for receiving a food item,

a blade assembly including a blade and moveable within the housing for chopping the food item,

a stripper fixed to the housing and responsive to movement of the blade assembly for removing food from the blade, and

first and second guide structures respectively on the blade assembly and the stripper for guiding coupling of the blade assembly to the stripper.

14. The chopper of claim 13, wherein the first guide structure includes a slot on one of the blade assembly and the stripper and the second guide structure includes a rib receivable in the slot.

15. The chopper of claim 14, wherein the slot is formed on the blade assembly.

16. The chopper of claim 14, wherein the second guide structure includes two ribs respectively disposed at diametrically opposed locations on the stripper.

17. The chopper of claim 16, wherein the stripper includes a pair of longitudinally extending guide arms, the ribs being respectively disposed on the guide arms.

18. The chopper of claim 13, and further comprising support structure for supporting the stripper in a mounted condition in the housing.

19. The chopper of claim 18, wherein the support structure includes a peripheral flange on the stripper and a peripheral shoulder on the housing for receiving the flange in supporting relationship.